

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Title of Publication: Black

Other Known Title: Not Stated

Format: Console Game

Director/Author: Not Stated

Producer/Publisher: Not Stated

Country of Origin: USA

Language: English

Applicant: Secretary for Internal Affairs

Distributor: Electronic Arts New Zealand

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.
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Descriptive Note: Contains violence.

Display Conditions: When the film is in its inactive state:

Nil.

When the film is in its active state:

The film must be publicly displayed only in premises, or a part of premises, set aside for the public display of restricted publications (whether or not articles other than restricted publications are also displayed in those premises or that part of those premises).

Date of entry in Register: 03 August 2006

Date of direction to issue a label: 02 August 2006

OFLC No: 601170

Unexcised version of publication:

	Component	
Game:	Black	

Excisions:

No Excisions Recommended

Reasons for excisions:

Not Applicable

**Summary of reasons
for classification:**

The console game entitled *Black* is classified as:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

The publication is a military-style first person perspective console game. In determining its classification weighting has been given to its depictions of the infliction of serious physical harm, which would be disturbing to children or younger persons, or have the effect of trivialising violence through presenting this behaviour as entertaining and exciting. Constant exposure to the game's killings of (animated) humans, in which the player is an active participant, has the potential to desensitise children and younger persons in general towards violent behaviour in real life. Older teenagers and adults are more able to put this kind of material in the context of an entertaining but violent console game.

An age restriction of 16 years will interfere with the freedom of expression as set out in Section 14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. This limitation is demonstrably justified, however, given the likely injury to the public good from the game's potential to negatively influence children and younger persons.